

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6903

BILL NUMBER: HB 1190

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 30, 2004

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Bible Study.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Denbo

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill provides that a school corporation may include in its curriculum as an elective a study of world literature, including the Bible and other similar great works of literature. The bill requires the State Board of Education (the Board) and the Professional Standards Board (PSB) to jointly develop and report to the Legislative Council before January 1, 2006, a plan to implement the "academic study of religion in secondary schools".

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Currently, Biblical Literature is offered as an approved high school course for one credit under the curriculum area of English/Language Arts. In addition, World Literature is also offered as an approved high school course for one credit under the same curriculum area. The Department of Education already provides curriculum assistance for courses contained within English/Language Arts (including World and Biblical Literature). There should not be additional cost to the state regarding this portion of the bill.

The Department of Education (the Department) and the Professional Standards Board would likely have a slight increase in administrative costs to produce the report required by the bill. The report to the Legislative Council would be required in electronic format.

Background: As of September 7, 2004, the Department of Education had 263 full-time staff members. For FY 2005, the Department has 272 budgeted full-time positions, 10 budgeted temporary positions, and 36 budgeted intermittent positions. The Department reverted \$4.3 M in FY 2004.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Currently, school corporations are already allowed to offer World and Biblical Literature electives via the curriculum area of English/Language Arts. It is not likely that the provisions of this bill would result in additional administrative time or cost to school corporations.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education, Professional Standards Board.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources: Dr. Mary Andis, Department of Education; State of Indiana *HRM Detail Staffing Report 9/07/2004*; Indiana State Budget Agency: BUDSTARS, *General Fund, Property Tax Replacement Fund, Rainy Day Fund, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2004, And Summaries*.

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